

Department of Justice

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U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE CREDITED WITH COLLECTION OF MORE THAN \$194 MILLION IN CIVIL AND CRIMINAL ACTIONS IN FISCAL YEAR 2008

More than Double the Collection Figures From Fiscal Year 2007

ATLANTA, GA--United States Attorney David E. Nahmias today announced that, during the government's fiscal year ending on September 30, 2008, the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia was credited with collection of over \$194 million from individuals and businesses that committed federal crimes or are civilly indebted to the United States and which reside and conduct business in the District. This amount is more than double the amount of \$71.7 million collected by the Office in fiscal year 2007. This is the third year in a row that the United States Attorney's Office has dramatically increased its collections of the previous year.

"We are addressing all aspects of financial crime and civil fraud in this district by demanding that those responsible meet their financial obligations, as well as other components of their sentences and civil settlements," said Nahmias. "Civil recoveries of over \$176.2 million highlight the importance of affirmative civil enforcement as a weapon in the arsenal of law enforcement. Recovery of these losses requires the efforts of many people and we thank law enforcement, as well as the Probation Office, for their efforts to ensure that as many dollars as possible are returned to victims, defrauded government agencies, service organizations and the community."

During fiscal year (FY) 2008, the Office received credit for collections in excess of \$194 million. Of the amount collected, \$176.2 million was collected from civil debtors and \$17.8 million was collected from criminal debtors. In comparison, in FY2007, the Office collected a total of \$71.7 million (approximately \$14.4 million from civil debtors and \$57.3 million from criminal debtors). The significant increase in collections from FY2007 to FY2008 was due to three health care enforcement actions jointly conducted by this Office with other districts, including \$112 million in a joint civil settlement with Tenet Healthcare Corporation; \$7 million in a joint civil settlement with Emory Healthcare; and \$26 million in a civil settlement with St. Joseph's Hospital. Large

criminal collections included approximately \$9 million in forfeited funds that were restored to victims in the case of <u>United States v. William Ledee</u>; \$380,000 in restitution in the case of <u>United States v. Shanthaveerappa</u>; and \$237,000 in restitution that was restored from forfeited assets to victims in the case of United States v. Muomah.

The Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office includes the Affirmative Civil Enforcement (ACE) Section, which investigates and sues parties suspected of defrauding the government, and the Financial Litigation Unit, which litigates debt collection issues and enforces collection of criminal and civil debts owed to the United States and to victims of federal crime. The United States Attorney's Office is charged with enforcing federal criminal laws in the Northern District of Georgia and with representing the federal government in civil litigation in the District. The Office currently employs approximately 80 attorneys and 90 staff members, with division offices in Rome, Gainesville, and Newnan.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.